

"I heard it through the Grapevine "

The Software Center sends periodic informational messages which are intended to provide heads-up/real time information to Software Professionals throughout the Command. These "information messages" are not intended to by-pass or replace the formal communication process or to task any DCMD or CAO activity. Forwarding of this e-mail within the DCMC Software Professional community and to other interested DCMC employees is encouraged.

Your feedback is appreciated.

Software Center: 1-888-616-7598

1. One Book Update - Request for Comments: Lead: Becky Grant; HQ DCMC Process Owner (703-767-7339)

Via Information Memorandum 00-98 (<http://www.dcmc.hq.dla.mil/onebook/4.0/4.3/dc00-98.htm>), HQ DCMC sent out an updated One Book chapter for "...your review and substantial comments". Comments are due to the districts by 11 Feb 00.

The document is presented with all additions and deletions marked. As such, it is sometimes difficult to read. If you want to read it "clean", select "Tools", "Track Changes", "Highlight Changes" and then hit the toggle off on "Highlight Changes on Screen".

2. Center Initiatives - Capability Maturity Model (CMM) Based Insight (Lead: Lisa Ming) and Software Performance Reviews (Lead - Gary Gumprecht)

We currently have two major initiatives underway. These have been previously discussed in past information/tasking memos, Grapevines, and the 1999 Software Symposium. They are two separate efforts but often confused. CMM Based Insight is how we measure a contractor's process. Software Performance Reviews are how we measure our internal CAO Processes. A short recap is provided here;

CMM Based Insight entails a change in the way we will accomplish evaluations of contractors software development processes. We will make observations based upon the Software Engineering Institutes CMM. That is the language used by program offices. That is the language used by contractors. It is the language we need to speak if we are to be effective. The transition to CMM Based Insight will not be overnight. The implementation schedule is as shown below:

- Phase I Pilot Testing: Oct 99 to Mar 00. Validation of concept at four CAOs (Syracuse, Denver, Delaware Valley, and Boston)
- Phase II Pilot Testing: Jun 00 - Oct 00. Verification of concept and validation of proposed data collection/tool at five volunteer CAOs. If you want to influence the process, this is an excellent opportunity - raise it to your Commander. I will be briefing this at the Feb DCMDE Commander's Conference (16 Feb 00) and hopefully the DCMDW Commander's Conference in Jun 2000.
- Phase III Pilot Testing: TBD; dependant upon tool - estimated Feb 01 to May 01. Final Verification of process & Verification of proposed data collection/tool at an additional five volunteer CAOs. Again, another opportunity to influence the process - if interested, raise it to your commander.
- Command Wide Implementation: TBD; based on Phase III. Estimated Jun-Aug 01

Software Performance Reviews deal with measuring our internal Software CAS process maturity. Where as CMM Based Insight is based upon the SEIs Software CMM, the SPRs are based upon its sister model, the SEIs Software Acquisition CMM. The model was tailored to reflect DCMC operation and pilot tested at six CAOs prior to command wide implementation. To date 46% of CAOs have been reviewed with completion on track for April 2000. After an analysis of the data, we will be recommending a Command Wide Strategy for improvement.

Additional details on both initiatives can be found on the Software Center Home Page under "Initiatives" http://www.dcmc.hq.dla.mil/dcmc_o/ob/swctr/initiati.htm

3. Need for DCMC Software Capability Evaluation Lead Evaluators: Lead: David Zentner

Are you interested in being a lead evaluator? With the increased focus on CMM maturity levels (http://www.dcmc.hq.dla.mil/dcmc_o/ob/swctr/news.htm#Department), program office requests for DCMC led SCEs are increasing. We currently have only two lead evaluators certified by the Software Engineering Institute. The command will need at least two more to meet the demand.

The benefits to you are professional growth through:

- Additional training. One week lead evaluator course at the Software Engineering Institute on Jun 20-22 or Oct 23-25 2000.
- Exposure to contractor processes outside your CAO
- Leadership and Briefing opportunities at the Executive Level

The benefits to your CAO are skill broadening and exposure to process initiatives and controls which can be brought back to your CAO

The requirements are:

- Your, and your CAO Commander, must be willing to support two SCEs within a two year period. This is the requirement from the Software Engineering Institute to maintain certification. SCEs typically will require two man-weeks of your time in preparation, three to five man-weeks for the review (depending upon the number of offerers), and a man-week in wrapup.
- Meet the SEI prerequisites of:
 - verified participation as a team member in at least two SCEs for the model of intended practice (for a full evaluation life cycle; two site visits for the same solicitation does not qualify) within the two years prior to applying to the program. The SEI verifies this information from the Process Appraisal Information System (PAIS).
 - for the Software CMM: a minimum of ten years of software engineering experience in software development or maintenance in an appropriate technical area (e.g., software design, software quality assurance, requirements analysis, configuration management, and testing
 - a minimum of two years of experience managing software development personnel
 - an advanced degree or equivalent experience in an appropriate technical area
 - successful completion of the SEI *Introduction to the CMM*
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If you are interested, please contact David Zentner at 1-888-616-7598. If you are interested and have all the qualifications except the SCE prerequisites, we could schedule you as a team member on upcoming SCEs to gain that experience. Additional information on the Lead Evaluator Program can be found through the SEI web site at http://www.sei.cmu.edu/products/courses/lead_evaluator.html

Lt Col Bob Lang
 Director, DCMC Software Center
 1-888-616-7598
rlang@dcmdc.dla.mil